



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Kenji Takeda, et al.

Filing Date: March 24, 2005

Application No.: 10/529,176

Group Art Unit: 1793

Examiner: Nguyen, Ngoc Yen M

Title: PROCESS OF SOLVENT EXTRACTION OF COPPER

DECLARATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.132

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I, Koji Ando, Kenji Takeda, Keiji Kudo, and Masaki Imamura, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. Along with Mr. Noriyuki Nagase, we are the inventors of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0144208 ("the '208 application").
2. The '208 application contains unclaimed disclosure regarding using oxidation-reduction potentials of 0 to 400 mV (based on a Ag/AgCl electrode) during a copper ion reduction step. ('208 app. [0107]).
3. The disclosure of using oxidation-reduction potentials of 0 to 400 mV (based on a Ag/AgCl electrode) during a copper ion reduction step may be relevant to the above-identified application, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/529,176.
4. Mr. Nagase did not conceive of adjusting the oxidation-reduction potentials to 0 to 400 mV (based on a Ag/AgCl electrode) during the copper ion reduction step. In fact, this portion of the invention of the '208 application was conceived by us, the other inventors, Messrs. Ando, Takeda, Kudo, and Imamura.

5. Mr. Nagase learned of adjusting the oxidation-reduction potentials to 0 to 400 mV (based on a Ag/AgCl electrode) during the copper ion reduction step from us, the other inventors, while working on the invention of the '208 application.
6. Therefore, this unclaimed disclosure from the '208 application, which may be relevant to the above-identified application, was conceived by us, Messrs. Ando, Takeda, Kudo, and Imamura, and is not the work by another.
7. Incidentally, Mr. Koji Ando of the '208 application and Mr. Kouji Ando of the instant application are one and the same person.

We further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Koji Ando

Date

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Kenji Takeda

Date

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Keiji Kudo

Date

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Masaki Imamura

Date